

NOMENCLATURE OF THE HEART-LEAVED HEDGE-NETTLE, *STACHYS CORDATA* (LAMIACEAE)¹

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ABSTRACT

Stachys cordata Riddell is the correct name for the species usually called *S. nuttallii* Shuttlew. ex Benth.

RESUMEN

Stachys cordata Riddell es el nombre correcto para la especie usualmente conocida como *S. nuttallii* Shuttlew. ex Benth.

Stachys cordata was described from Ohio by Riddell in 1836. The identity of the species so named was never in question, and the use of this name prevailed during the following 85 years. Riddell's type specimen is extant at US and microfiches are widely accessible.

In 1921, House published the name *Stachys riddellii* in direct substitution for *S. cordata* Riddell, although he inappropriately used the designation "n. sp." Because this was merely a new name for the same species, no new description was provided and no new type was cited. House considered the name *S. cordata* Riddell to be illegitimate, in that it was a homonym of *S. cordata* Gilib. Whether the new plant names in Gilibert's *Flora Lituanica Inchoata* should be considered validly published under the provisions of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* was formerly a matter of doubt. This matter is now settled. *Flora Lituanica Inchoata* and Gilibert's other publications are listed in the *Code* among the "opera utique oppressa," and new names at the rank of species are decreed not to have been validly published in those works.

Immediately upon its being published, the name *Stachys cordata* Gilib. was widely recognized as being taxonomically synonymous with *S. sylvatica* L., the name of a species native to Europe. Consequently, it was not inadvertently validated by subsequently being accepted by any other author. Bentham, in his comprehensive treatment of the genus in 1848, did not note the use of this name by any other authors in the interim, nor did he even cite it in synonymy. Since the provisions of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* pertaining to homonyms apply only to validly published names, the use of the combination

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by Gilibert no longer constitutes a reason for rejecting the name *S. cordata* Riddell.

Following House's publication of the name *S. riddellii*, that name came into general use for the species, although as late as 1933 the name *S. cordata* was used in Small's *Manual of the Southeastern Flora*. In 1979, Nelson and Fairey noted that the long-misapplied name *S. nuttallii* Shuttlew. ex Benth. (1848), which antedated *S. riddellii* House, was correctly applicable to the same species. The species has usually been called *S. nuttallii* since their paper was published. They rejected the name *S. cordata* Riddell only for the reason given by House. In his monograph on *Stachys* in the southeastern United States, Nelson (1981) included *S. cordata* Riddell in the synonymy of *S. nuttallii* but did not address the question of the legitimacy of the earlier name.

The only post-1981 flora in which the name *S. cordata* Riddell was accepted is that by Gleason and Cronquist (1991). The names *S. riddellii* and *S. nuttallii* were cited in synonymy, without comment. In other standard references, both printed and electronic and including those published since 1991, the name *S. nuttallii* has continued to prevail.

I conclude that there is no basis for the rejection of the name *Stachys cordata* Riddell, and that it is the correct name for the species that has been called *S. riddellii* House and *S. nuttallii* Shuttlew. ex Benth.

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